Future Nordic Architecture
- tradition and renewal

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Nordic Concrete Architecture
- In Scandinavia there exist conditions different from the most other places in the world.

- The Nordic climate causes a varied weather during the 4 seasons. This results in significant fewer hours with sun. Add to this that the sun stands low in the sky – especially in the winter season.

- These conditions has had great influence on the architecture.

- And off course the cultural development in Scandinavia plays a significant role. The style of building has always been inspired of the nabours in the south – but always with a local interpretation and the usage of local building materials.
Concrete has not played a bigger role in the Nordic architecture compared to other countries.

But special about the Nordic concrete architecture is among other things the distinguished usage of concrete with a special feeling for the interaction between the detail and the whole.
The modern white reinforced concrete
-The exhibition in Stockholm in 1930 was an important event for the Nordic architecture – and especially for the usage of concrete

-It marked a shift from the classicism in the 1920’s to the modernism
Concrete was an integrated part of the functionalism

Earlier the concrete had not been popular among architects who claimed that concrete was missing symbolic value and a cultural history

But in this new style concrete became very interesting

Although white painted concrete was the aim - a lot of the buildings was actually built in bricks and plastered with mortar – and then white painted.

But the white painted concrete surfaces was considered the most honest examples
The brutal concrete
-As a contrast to the pure white architecture a demand for a more honest architecture came after second world war

-This new architecture was characterised by emphasized structures and raw surfaces

-This period was called the brutalism and concrete played a leading role
Organized concrete elements
- The industrialisation reached the Nordic countries in the late 1950's – and as a solution to the alarming need for housing, a mass production of building component was started – just like in the rest of Europe.

- This caused a demand for standardisation of building components which could be seen in the architecture the following years.

- The architecture became rational and without variation.
Utzons floating concrete structures
-Jørn Utzon – probably the Danish architect who has had most influence on the development of the Danish concrete architecture

-Thats why we have dedicated a special category for him

-He has challenged the potential of concrete and created unique architecture

-Especially his creativity with concrete elements is worth mentioning.
Fehns site-storytelling in concrete
-The Norwegian architect Sverre Fehn is probably the most recognized architect in modern Norwegian history of architecture.

-And concrete was often a preferred building material in his works.
Large scale concrete structure
New concrete ideals
Nordic concrete architecture in the future
- Architecture of the future faces major challenges.

- Digital 3D-modelling tools is used among architect to create new advanced shapes which is characterised by the digital architecture of the future.